

Approved

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Hearing
Minutes of November 15, 2010

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Ken Christiansen, and Malcolm Allison, Bob Mantegari, Jeff Bryan (Selectmen Board Representative), Charlie Gargaly (Swasey School Board representative).

Absent:, Tracie May.

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

WELCOME

1. Correspondence and communications to committee –Elyse shared the Town and City publication. Malcolm reported that the town office has a hard copy of most of the New Hampshire LGC Publications and provided us with a list of those publications. The only publication that seems to be missing, that would be helpful for us is the *Town and School Meetings handbook*. Malcolm will check further to see if that publication is available. He also suggested we may want to explore the availability of a CD of all the pubs since it would include automatic updates. Elyse will give library list of publications for reference and see if they want to have any publications available at the library.

OLD BUSINESS

2. November 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes, with correction to the School Board report approved.
3. A recap of the 11/2/10 Selectman's meeting was discussed. During that meeting, the Selectmen discussed COLAs, steps and merit pay options for the coming year for town employees. The Budget Committee will vote on total Department budgets as we have always done and will not vote on individual line items.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Report from Charlie on behalf of the SCS board. He provided a proposed operating budget and discussed very briefly the current operating expense to date. No report on the current teacher contract negotiations.
6. Report from Jeff on behalf of the Selectmen. There will be no COLAs this year. Merit raises will be considered very judiciously by the Board on an individual basis given the current economic conditions. The tax rate was set last week at 23.68 per 100k of assessed value for residential property. There may be some cost overruns associated with the new Fire House. Jeff will report back at the next meeting on the Fire House.
7. Budcom voted on individual town department budgets that have been approved by the Selectmen:

- Animal Control – The increase is due to the NHSPCA charging now for every animal brought to them. Malcolm/Ken motion to vote. \$3,317.00 Budget passed unanimously.
- Legal- Ken/Charlie motion to vote. \$22,002.00 Budget passed unanimously.
- Planning Board – Ken/Charlie motion to vote. \$81,025.00 Budget passed unanimously.
- Zoning Board – Ken/Charlie motion to vote. \$939.00 Budget passed unanimously.
- Executive Office – Tabled pending revision from Selectmen.
- Joint Loss – Tabled pending revision from Selectmen.

OTHER

8. Howard Cadwell, Trustee of the Trust Funds, presented an overview of the Trust Funds and their current status. Several of the funds have been depleted or nearly depleted (i.e. Fire/Rescue vehicles). There was some discussion about revisiting the investment strategy regarding the funds and also some discussion about the process of changing or deleting funds that may not be used in the future. It was a very informative session .and helpful presentation.
9. Budget Public Hearing is Monday February 7, 2011 at 7PM at Swasey School. The elections are held on Tuesday March 8, 2011. (Elyse to check on Budget Committee vacancies). Town Meeting date is Saturday March 12, 2011. School District Meeting is Saturday March 19, 2011.
FYI: Cooperative School District meetings - Budget Hearing is Thursday, January 13, 7 pm and the Deliberative Session is Thursday, February 10, 7 pm
10. Next BudCom meeting scheduled for **December 6, 2010**. All to bring questions for Charlie on draft Swasey budget.
We added a meeting on **December 13** as well, and will look at School Budget then.
2011 Schedule of BudCom meetings: **Jan 3, Jan 17, Jan 31.**

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:50 pm with no further discussion.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
William C Faria, acting sec.